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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 3269**

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**State of Washington**

**60th Legislature**

**2008 Regular Session**

**By** House Early Learning & Children's Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Roach, Haler, Williams, Campbell, Rodne, and Ross)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to the roving early intervention specialist pilot  
2 program; and adding a new section to chapter 43.215 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.215 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this  
7 specific purpose, the department shall administer the roving early  
8 intervention specialist pilot program beginning July 1, 2008. The  
9 purpose of the program is to provide assistance to licensed child care  
10 providers and families with children ages birth to five with special  
11 needs. The pilot shall be conducted in Pierce county.

12 (2) One roving early intervention specialist shall be housed at a  
13 local child care resource and referral organization in Pierce county.  
14 The specialist shall, at a minimum, have a bachelor of arts degree,  
15 preferably in child and family counseling or early intervention  
16 services. The specialist shall:

17 (a) Assist families with children with special needs to find child  
18 care and other related services;

1 (b) Coordinate with families and child care providers to ensure a  
2 child's enrollment and smooth transition into a child care facility;

3 (c) Recruit new child care providers and provide professional and  
4 technical assistance to licensed child care providers, which includes  
5 site visits to assist with any challenges that the providers are  
6 experiencing and training for the providers; and

7 (d) Encourage child care providers not to expel a child with  
8 special needs until the specialist has had the opportunity to  
9 ameliorate the concerns.

10 (3) By August 1, 2009, the department shall report its findings to  
11 the governor and appropriate education and fiscal committees of the  
12 legislature. The department shall report (a) how often the child care  
13 providers serving children with special needs received timely  
14 consulting and evaluation assistance; (b) how many children who might  
15 have been asked to leave a child care facility were retained due to the  
16 intervention of the specialists; and (c) how many child care providers  
17 reported improvement in learning progress and readiness with children  
18 with special needs. The department shall provide recommendations for  
19 increasing the number of roving early intervention specialists to serve  
20 the statewide child care resource and referral network.

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